

Chairman Waukau's Notes December 2002

A group of young people brought a petition requesting a special General Council with the one issue of a per capita to Tribal Members from gaming revenues or from our reserve. The Legislature will set a meeting date at the December 5th meeting. The Legislature is aware that many of our people need that per capita to make their children's Christmas a little brighter, however the cost of a \$100.00 per capita is close to \$900,000 which is more than 10% of the total sweep we can expect from our gaming facility. In order to issue a \$100.00 per capita we would have to eliminate that amount from our tribal budget which is pretty much bare bones now. The largest cost to our Tribal Budget is the human resource, therefore if the Legislature decides to give a per capita, we would have to eliminate an additional 25 jobs from the tribal operation.

The people in Neopit have been anxiously awaiting the completion of the Cellcom tower enabling the use of cell phones. The anticipated completion date is mid December. It was originally October, but the project has experienced a great deal of vandalism to the equipment. In fact, they had the tower half way up on a Friday and when the workers got back the following Monday, someone had sawed it down. Driving up the cost, is a need for a guard around the project as well as extra patrols from County and Tribal.

The tribal operation will be shut down for a few days during the holidays: Restoration Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day. Please plan accordingly, if you have need for governmental services.

The Legislature has completed all four of its mandated Community Meetings for this Legislative year. We came out of those meetings with very good comments and recommendations. Legislative Staff will summarize the issues and hand those out at the Annual General Council in January. Then the summary will be the starting point for when the Community Meetings begin again in March of 2003.

All of the Tribal Chairmen had a meeting with Governor-Elect Jim Doyle last week in Milwaukee. Mr. Doyle worked for three years as a young attorney with the Navaho Nation, so he does have tribal experience and that's a positive thing. We all came away from that meeting with hope that we can work well with this new governor who will be inaugurated on January 6th.

The Tribe is moving forward with its quest for an off-reservation gaming facility and I hope we can have good news to report to the tribal members sometime after the holidays.

Michael Waupoose, a student in Leslie Shawanokasic's Social Studies class, wrote to the Legislature requesting a Legislative meeting during the day so that he and his classmates can be in attendance. The Legislature thought that this was an excellent idea. How better to train our future Menominee leaders than to give them an opportunity to see the government in action. Therefore, we set the January 2nd meeting for 10:00 a.m. at the Casino Deer-Blackhawk room. This is probably something we should do a few times every year. Thanks for the good suggestion, Michael.

The Annual General Council is scheduled for January 18th starting at 9:00 a.m. Please mark your calendar.

Vice-Chairman Gene Caldwell will be doing the next Legislative update.

On behalf of the Tribal Legislature I wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lisa Waukau
Honorable Tribal Chairman